Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 CA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00
NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 ICA-11 DODE-00 /036 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3944

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 1219

FOR NEA/ARP AND VO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, BTRA, QA
SUBJECT: QATARI VISAS

REF: (A) DOHA 809 (B) DOHA 977 (C) STATE 164654 (D) STATE 213154

1. POST IS GRATEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO CLARIFY GOQ VISA POLICY. FOLLOWING IS UPDATE ON OUR MOST RECENT EFFORTS IN THIS AREA:

(A) IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN CHARGE AND MFA CHIEF DE CABINET, JASSIM AL KAWARI, VISA PROBLEM WAS DISCUSSED. AL KAWARI PROMISED TO TAKE QTE IMMEDIATE ACTION UNQTE TO ALLOW QATARI EMBASSY WASHINGTON ISSUE ONE ENTRY, THREE MONTH VISAS TO AMCITS.

(B) ON AUG. 27, CONOFF MET WITH CHIEF OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AT MFA, KHALID AL KHATER. AL KHATER STATED THAT NO REPLY HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM MINISTER OF INTERIOR REGARDING VISAS TO AMCITS (NOTE: MINISTER HAS ULTIMATE CONTROL OVER VISA MATTERS AND AL KHATER HAD PREVIOUSLY REFERRED PROBLEM TO HIM WITH RECOMMENDATION TO LIBERALIZE POLICY). AL KHATER STATED THAT NO RESPONSE CONSTITUTES A REFUSAL BY THE MINISTER TO LIBERALIZE GOQ VISAS. HOWEVER, KHALID REPEATED THAT MFA STILL PLANS TO NOTIFY QATARI EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO ISSUE QTE TWO MONTH VISAS UNQTE.
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ACCORDING TO AL KHATER FORMAL NOTIFICATION WILL BE SENT OUT AFTER AL EID HOLIDAY.

2. AS REQUESTED REF D TYPICAL TERMS OF VISAS TO QATARI CITIZENS FOLLOWS: (1) PRIOR TO JUNE 1978: B-1 AND B-2 VSIAS FOR SIX MONTHS TWO ENTRIES; (2) FROM JUNE 1978 (REF A) TO PRESENT: B-1 AND B-2 VISAS FOR THREE MONTHS, ONE ENTRY. (3) F-1'S MAXIMUM FOUR

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YEAR MULTIPLE. LENGTH IS DETERMINED BY ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE MENTIONED IN I-20. AVERAGE VALIDITY IS TWO YEAR, MULTIPLE. (4) NO FEES ARE CHARGED FOR VISAS.

3. FOR VO: IN VIEW OF ABOVE, POST FEELS IT HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RECOMMEND THAT 9 FAM PART IV, APPENDIX C FOR QATAR BE AMENDED TO ALLOW ONLY ONE ENTRY, TWO MONTH B-1 AND B-2 VISAS FOR QATARI CITIZENS.

4. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS GONE AS FAR AS IT CAN IN COOPERATING WITH US ON VISAS FOR AMERICANS. NO REMAINING ACTION CAN BE TAKEN WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. PERHAPS AFTER AMBASSADOR KILLGORE'S RETURN, REPRESENTATIONS CAN BE MADE TO HIM. IN LETTER (REF D) TO QATARI EMBASSY, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO MENTION FOLLOWING: (A) EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM QATARI CITIZENS REGARDING OUR POLICY OF ISSUING ONE ENTRY, THREE MONTH VISAS. (B) SHOULD GOQ AGREE TO ISSUE TWO OR THREE MONTH VISAS, THIS WILL NOT CHANGE OUR PRESENT POLICY BUT WILL PREVENT A FURTHER REDUCTION IN TERMS OF VALIDITY OF OUR VISAS. (C) WE HAVE SUBMITTED FOUR DIPLOMATIC NOTES ON THIS SUBJECT TO MFA BUT HAVE RECEIVED NO REPLY.

5. WILL NOTIFY DEPARTMENT UPON RECEIPT OF PROMISED DIPLOMATIC NOTE. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMATION THAT QATARI EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS.
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